

1. (2X Amended) A metal carrying sleeve for printing and transfer forms, the carrying sleeve consisting essentially of: a rectangular, thin-walled flat metal sheet, that is bent to a [to a] desired hollow cylindrical form so that two edges of the flat sheet face one another; a metal weld seam that permanently connects together only the facing edges of the sheet so that the sheet is slidable onto a printing cylinder via pressurized air; and a homogeneous, continuous and uniform outer circumferential metal surface including the weld seam and formed by processing the surface and the weld seam so that one of format variable continuous printing is possible and a layer structure is placeable on the entire outer circumferential surface, including the weld seam.

(Amended) A process for producing a carrying sleeve for printing and transfer forms, which sleeve is slidable onto a printing cylinder by pressurized air, comprising the steps of: cutting a base plate from thin-walled sheet metal drawn from a roll and in a flat state to a size corresponding to a circumference and breadth of a printing cylinder;

bending the base plate into a desired cylindrical form so that two edges of the base plate face one another;

permanently connecting together the two edges of the base plate with a welded metal seam that has an outwardly directed crown; and

E2
(concluded)

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processing the entire sleeve surface, including the crown, to form a homogeneous,
uniform continuous outer surface so that format variable continuous printing is possible.

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E3

(Amended) A process for producing an offset printing form, comprising the steps of:

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producing a carrying sleeve for printing and transfer forms, which sleeve is slidable onto
a printing cylinder by pressurized air, by cutting a base plate from thin-walled sheet
metal drawn from a roll and in a flat state to a size corresponding to a circumference and
breadth of a printing cylinder;

bending the base plate into a desired cylindrical form so that two edges of the base plate
face one another;

permanently connecting together the two edges of the base plate with a welded metal
seam that has an outwardly directed crown[,] ; and

processing the entire sleeve surface, including the crown, to form a homogeneous,
continuous uniform outer surface, the processing step including chemically roughening
and anodizing the hollow cylindrical form of the base plate and subsequently providing
a photosensitive coating on the outer surface of the cylindrical form so as to create a
printing form sleeve for format variable continuous printing.

~~14.~~ (Amended) A process for producing a gravure printing form, comprising the steps of:

~~producing a carrying sleeve for printing and transfer forms, which sleeve is slidable onto a printing cylinder by pressurized air, by cutting a base plate from thin-walled sheet metal drawn from a roll and in a flat state to a size corresponding to a circumference and breadth of a printing cylinder, bending the base plate into a desired cylindrical form so that two edges of the base plate face one another, permanently connecting together the two edges of the base plate with a welded metal seam that has an outwardly directed crown, processing the entire sleeve surface, including the crown, to form a homogeneous, continuous uniform outer surface; and~~

~~applying a metal coat to the processed outer surface and then mechanically processing the metal coat.~~

~~16.~~ (Amended) A process for producing a transfer form, comprising the steps of:

~~producing a carrying sleeve for printing and transfer forms, which sleeve is slidable onto a printing cylinder by pressurized air, by cutting a base plate from thin-walled sheet metal drawn from a roll and in a flat state to a size corresponding to a circumference and breadth of a printing cylinder, bending the base plate into a desired cylindrical form so that two edges of the base plate face one another, permanently connecting together the two edges of the base plate with a welded metal seam that has an outwardly directed~~

crown, and processing the entire sleeve surface, including the crown, to form a homogeneous, continuous uniform outer surface; and

applying an endless rubber coating to the entire processed sleeve surface.

17. (Amended) A process for producing a printing form, comprising the steps of:

producing a carrying sleeve for printing and transfer forms, which sleeve is slidable onto a printing cylinder by pressurized air, by cutting a base plate from thin-walled sheet metal drawn from a roll and in a flat state to a size corresponding to a circumference and breadth of a printing cylinder, bending the base plate into a desired cylindrical form so that two edges of the base plate face one another, permanently connecting together the two edges of the base plate with a welded metal seam that has an outwardly directed crown, and processing the entire sleeve surface, including the crown, to form a homogeneous, continuous uniform outer surface; and

applying an endless ceramic coat to the entire processed sleeve surface.